

### **Abstract**

The present invention provides an animal model for studying allergic reactions to allergens. The animal is sensitized to a selected antigen by administering the antigen itself or a nucleic acid encoding the antigen. Preferred antigens are anaphylactic antigens. The sensitized  
5 animal can then be used to screen for compounds which may help to prevent, ameliorate, or cure allergic conditions in humans. A method of sensitizing an animal as well as a method and system for screening chemical compounds is also disclosed.